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Capacity Building Approaches Under the Demographic and Health Surveys Program

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Outline

- **Introduction**
- **Guiding principles and framework**
- **Capacity building in host countries**
 - Individual
 - Institutional
- **US-based capacity building activities**
- **Web-based efforts**
- **Challenges**
- **Lessons**



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Introduction

Objective of the DHS Program

- To provide technical assistance to developing countries in the **collection, analysis and use of data** to monitor and evaluate population, health, and nutrition programs
- *Capacity building is a key result for the project*



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Guiding principles & framework

Capacity Building Objectives

- Improve skills of implementing agencies and individuals to plan and conduct surveys
- Improve skills of multiple audiences to interpret and use DHS results
- Enhance skills of researchers and academics to analyze DHS datasets



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Guiding principles & framework

DHS Capacity Building Approach

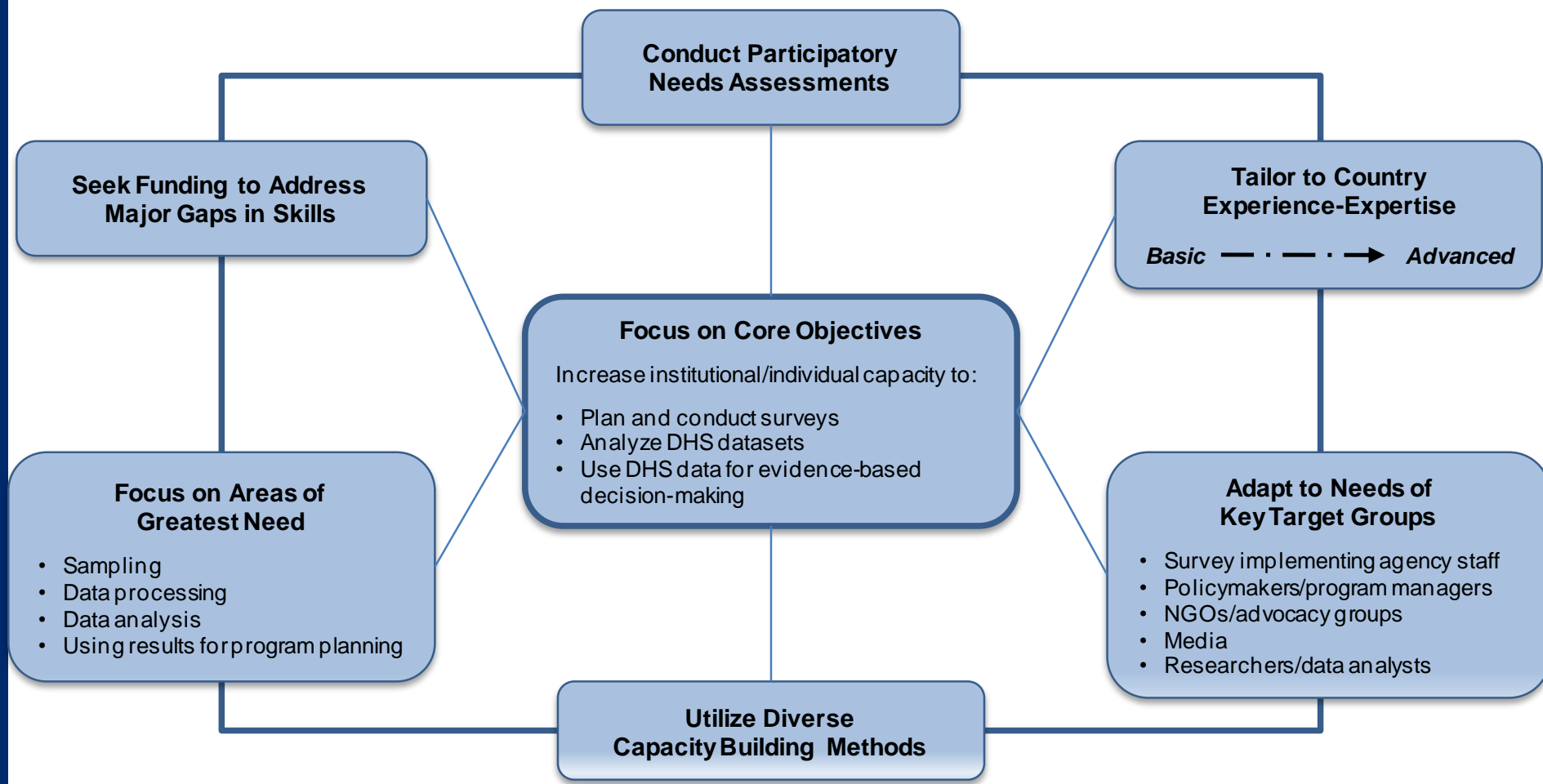
- **Conduct host-country needs assessment**
- **Tailor technical assistance plan**
- **Use diverse capacity building methods**
- **Focus on areas of greatest need**



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Guiding principles & framework

MEASURE DHS Capacity Building Strategy





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Capacity Building Efforts



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Capacity building in host countries

Levels of Capacity Building Efforts

■ Individual

- Implementation of survey
- Analysis of data
- Dissemination
- Use in programs and policy

■ Institutional

- Material support (equipment)
- Technical assistance
- Staff training and mentoring



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Capacity building in host countries

Individual Capacity Building Efforts

- **Survey implementation**

- Interviewers (1,123 trained in 2010)
- Supervisors and editors (442 trained in 2010)
- Data entry clerks (312 in 2010)
- Lab technicians (35 in 2010)

- **Data analysis**

- Data analysts (169 in 2010)

- **Data use**

- Policymakers
- Journalists
- Students
- Professors





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Capacity building in host countries

Institutional Capacity Building Efforts: Universities

■ **Faculty Fellowships**

- Data analysis and research paper
- Competitive recruitment
- Quality control workshop
- Mentoring

■ **DHS Curriculum**

- General introduction
- Undergraduate and graduate students



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Capacity building in host countries

Institutional Capacity Building Efforts: National Statistical Organizations

- **Staff training and mentoring**
 - Survey design and logistics
 - Sampling design
 - Management and survey supervision
 - Report writing
 - Presentation skills
- **Material support**
 - Computers
 - Laboratory equipment and supplies
 - Vehicles (in some cases)



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US-based capacity building

DHS Capacity Building in the United States

- **Fellowship programs**
 - Postdoctoral (2 years)
 - Short-term
 - Visiting fellows
- **Internships**
 - Summer internships
- **Topical workshops**
- **Data user support**
 - DHS archive



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Web-based capacity building

Reach is global

- **Online tools and guides**

MEASURE DHS.com

- Receives over 400,000 hits per year
- Houses myriad tools and resources, including for example, the *DHS Dissemination Guide*, and the *DHS Comprehensive Toolkit*

- **DHS e-Learning,**

- *Understanding & Using DHS Data* available on GlobalHealthLearning.org

- **DHS Curriculum**





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Challenges



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Challenges

Challenges are many

- **Attrition**
 - People get trained and they leave
- **Re-assignment**
 - Staff gain competence and they are re-assigned
- **Institutional politics**
 - Wrong people are assigned because of perceived gain
- **Funding scarcity**
 - Results are often not immediate
 - Costly and competes with program funds
- **Measuring impact**



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Lessons



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Lessons

Capacity Building...

- **Takes time**
- **Needs to be continuous**
 - Attrition is real
- **Costs a lot of money**
 - Results may not be immediate
 - Competition with program funds
- **Works better through multiple channels**
- **Pays off**
 - When it succeeds, it has multiplier effects and lowers cost



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Lessons

The Peru Case Study

- **Continuous survey**
 - Workers are program funded government employees
 - Benefited from institutional and individual-level capacity building activities
- **Survey management embedded in the Bureau of Statistical (INEI)**
- **Staff gain long-term skills in all aspects of survey design and implementation**
- **Easier to institutionalize**
 - Government of Peru now provides budgetary support



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THANK YOU